

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00625 180745Z

11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 FEA-02 EB-11 OMB-01 /145 W

----- 010548

R 180500Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2930

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCON KARACHI

AMCON LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PK, FR, UAE, XF

SUBJ: PAK PRESS ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD FRENCH-ABU DHABI ARMS DEAL

REF: STATE 8981

SUMMARY: PAK PRESS HAS CRITICIZED US FOR ALLEGEDLY PRO-TESTING FRENCH SALE OF MARAGES TO ABU DHABI ON GROUNDS AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE TRANSFERRED TO PAKISTAN. QUESTIONED BY EMBASSY ABOUT PRESS TREATMENT, GOP OFFICIAL CITED ALL INDIA RADIO AND BBC AS SOURCES THIS CANARD. USG HAS ALSO BEEN UNDER PAK PRESS GUNS FOR RESUMPTION "PEACE INDIGO" COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IN INDIA AND FOR POSITION TOWARD OIL EMBARGO. END SUMMARY.

1. FBIS ITEM CITED REFTTEL REFERS TO FEATURE ARTICLE THAT  
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00625 180745Z

APPEARED IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAK TIMES JANUARY 10

COMPLAINING AT LENGTH ABOUT ALLEGED US PROTEST TO FRENCH OVER SALE OF MIRAGES TO ABU DHABI ON GROUNDS LETTER MIGHT TRANSFER THEM TO PAKISTAN. ARTICLE FOLLOWED SIMILAR PRESS REPORTS AND EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT APPEARED IN URDU-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS PRECEDING WEEK. (LATTER SUMMARIZED IN USINFO CURRENT REACTION CABLE JANUARY 4-8.)

2. DURING SAME PERIOD, NUMBER OF OTHER NEWS ITEMS AND EDITORIALS MORE THAN NORMALLY CRITICAL OF US ALSO APPEARED IN PRESS TRUST AS WELL AS NON-GOVERNMENT PAPERS. IN WAKE OF BHUTTO'S INTERVIEW BY FRENCH NEWSMAN IN WHICH PRIMIN COMPLAINED OF US "MILITARY AID" TO INDIA (ISLAMABAD 175), PRESS BROKE OUT WITH RASH OF DISTORTED STORIES ON RESUMPTION OF US-SUPPLIED "PEACE INDIGO" MILITARY RADAR COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT IN INDIA. OTHER TOPIC PRESS CRITICISM HAS BEEN STATEMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENT FORD AND SECDEF SCHLESINGER ON ARAB OIL EMBARGO, WHICH WERE WIDELY INTERPRETED BY LOCAL PRESS AS US THREATS AGAINST ARABS (REPORTED IN DETAIL IN USINFO CURRENT REACTION JANUARY 9.) SOME PAPERS WENT TO LENGTH OF REPORTING ERRONEOUSLY THAT USG HAD IMPOSED RETALIATORY WHEAT EMBARGO AGAINST ARABS.

3. AS RESULT FOREGOING, USIS OFFICER MADE LOW-KEY INFORMAL APPROACH TO GOP INFORMATION SECRETARY TO INQUIRE ABOUT PRESS ATTITUDE TOWARD US. INFORMATION SECRETARY DENIED GOP WAS BEHIND THESE STORIES, ASSURED HIM IT WAS NOT GOP INTENTION CLOUD RELATIONS WITH US IN THIS WAY AND SUGGESTED WE TAKE MATTER UP INFORMALLY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE ATTRIBUTED DISTORTIONS TO "LEFT-WING MEMBERS" OF PAK PRESS WHO "LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES" TO RUN DOWN US.

4. ACCORDINGLY, DCM TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SCHEDULED JANUARY 11 CALL ON MFA DIRGEN FOR AMERICAS AND WESTERN EUROPE, AKRAM ZAKI, TO QUERY PRESS TREATMENT OF MIRAGES FOR ABU DHABI, "PEACE INDIGO", AND FALSE REPORTS OF WHEAT EMBARGO, STRESSING HE WAS NOT MAKING DEMARCHE BUT MERELY DRAWING MATTER INFORMALLY TO GOP ATTENTION. WITH REGARD WHEAT STORIES, ZAKI AGREED PRESS TREATMENT WAS DISTORTED AND INDICATED HE INTENDED DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. REFERENCE TO "PEACE INDIGO" ELICITED CRITICISM OF PROJECT ALONG FAMILIAR GOP LINES.

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00625 180745Z

3. ON MARAGES FOR ABU DHABI, ZAKI ASSERTED THAT PAK PRESS WAS SIMPLY REPEATING AND COMMENTING EDITORIALY ON NEWS ITEM PICKED UP FROM ALL INDIA RADIO AND BBC. HE SHOWED DCM MONITOR REPORT OF AIR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE JANUARY 5 BROADCAST CONTAINING FOLLOWING PASSAGE:

"WASHINGTON HAS CRITICIZED THE FRENCH MOVE TO SELL 32 MIRAGE JETS TO...ABU DHABI. A NEWS AGENCY REPORT SAYS THAT THE

JETS ARE LIKELY TO BE MAINTAINED BY PAKISTAN AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND MIGHT EVEN BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF PAKISTAN IN THE EVENT OF AN INDO-PAK WAR." BBC REPORT, TEXT OF WHICH ALSO PROVIDED BY ZAKI, DESCRIBES MIRAGE SALE IN SOME DETAIL BUT MAKES NO MENTION OF ANY US PROTEST.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE INFORMATION SECRETARY'S DENIAL, WE SUSPECT GOP HAS INSTRUCTED PRESS TO PLAY UP "PEACE INDIGO" AND OTHER INSTANCES ALLEGED US UNFAIR TREATMENT OF PAKISTAN IN MILITARY SUPPLY FIELD AS TACTIC IN CURRENT GOP CAMPAIGN TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN US ARMS SUPPLY POLICY. PRESS, IN TURN, HAS NO SCRUPLES ABOUT REWORKING NEWS ITEMS SUCH AS ALL INDIA RADIO STORY ON FRENCH-ABU DHABI ARMS DEAL (ITSELF ERRONEOUS) TO COMPLY WITH GOP WISHES. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE DISTORTED REPORTING ON US AND ARAB OIL EMBARGO WAS ENCOURAGED BY GOP BUT ATTRIBUTE IT LARGELY TO EMOTIONALLY PRO-ARAB STANCE OF PAK PRESS.

7. WHILE PRESS TREATMENT OF THIS NATURE DISCONCERTING, IT HAS NOT REACHED A DIMENSION WARRANTING FORMAL PROTEST. BYROADE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UAE, PRESS COMMENTS, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, RADAR, PFOR, MILITARY SALES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PEACE INDIGO, WARNING SYSTEMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** PAK PRESS ON US ATTITUDE TOWARD FRENCH-ABU DHABI ARMS DEAL  
**TAGS:** MILI, PFOR, PK, FR, XF, TC  
**To:** SECSTATE WASHDC USIA ABU DHABI AMCON KARACHI AMCON LAHORE NEW DELHI PARIS CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
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